

AUG 15 2000

IN THE UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Weronicz et al.

Examiner: J. Aftergut

Serial #: 09/057,406

Group Art Unit: 1733

Filed: April 8, 1998

Docket: 84-36-3-US-D

Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING A CONTINUOUS THERMOPLASTIC
COATING AND ARTICLE CONSTRUCTED THEREFROM

§1.132 SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C.**

I, Dr. Peter Remmers, declare and state the following:

I am familiar with U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/057,406 including the specification and the claims. I am also familiar with the Office Action of February 23, 1999 and U.S. Patent No. 5,409,733 issued to Boger et al. 4-25-95.

I obtained a Doctorate degree in Chemistry from the University of Braunschweig, Germany. From May 1982 to present, I have been employed by the H.B. Fuller Company, Luneburg, Germany conducting hot melt adhesive research.

I, Dr. Peter Remmers, declare and attest to the following:

1. I believe that U.S. Patent No. 5,409,733 issued to Boger et al. 4-25-95 refers to a coating method commonly known in the hot melt industry as "Control Coat®". The commercially available Control Coat® applicator employs a series of modular dies, rather than a single segmented die.

2. I attempted to apply a hot melt adhesive with a Control Coat® applicator to determine whether it was possible to obtain a continuous film at low coating weights.

3. HL1613-X is a hot melt adhesive product available from H.B. Fuller Company having the widest application window for use in the method described and claimed in U.S. Patent Application Serial no. 09/057,406.

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4. HL-1613-X was applied to a porous nonwoven with the method described in U.S. Patent Application Serial no. 09/057,406 at a coating temperature of 140°C, a coat weight of 8-10 grams/m² and a rate of 222 meters/minute resulting in a continuous coating.

5. The application conditions attempted with the Control Coat® applicator with HL-1613-X were as follows:

Temperature: 140°C to 180°C
Air pressure: 0.5 bar to 5.0 bar
Coat Weight: 40 g/m² to 150 g/m²

6. All the films obtained with the Control Coat® applicator were observed to have an open structure. Thus, a continuous coating having an area weight of less than 20 g/m² could not be obtained with a molten hot melt adhesive employing the Control Coat® applicator.

7. With regard to the relationship between complex viscosity and Brookfield viscosity, I attest that Brookfield viscosity is a low shear measurement and typically equivalent to the complex viscosity at 1 radian/second.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that statements are made with the knowledge that willful and false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

15.08.00
Date


Dr. Peter Remmers

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Title: **METHOD FOR PRODUCING A CONTINUOUS THERMOPLASTIC
COATING AND ARTICLE CONSTRUCTED THEREFROM**

§1.132 DECLARATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C.

I, Dr. Robert Polance, declare and state the following:

I am familiar with U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/057,406 including the specification and the claims.

I obtained a Doctorate degree in Chemical Engineering from Michigan State University in 1994. From May 1994 to present, I have been employed by the H.B. Fuller Company, as a Rheology Specialist.

I, Dr. Robert Polance, declare and attest to that I tested or supervised the testing of the complex viscosity of Hytrel G-3548 and Hytrel HTR-8206 at 240°C. The complex viscosity of these materials at 1 radian/second was 2677 and 1398, respectively.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that statements are made with the knowledge that willful and false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

8/15/2000
Date

Dr. Robert Polance
Dr. Robert Polance

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